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# The renegade CIA man who got away

## Amin henchman, 'profiteer of terrorism,' beyond the reach of the law

By ED LION

NEW YORK (UPI) — Fugitive Frank Terpil, a chubby adventurer with a penchant for the good life and exotic James Bond-style weaponry, apparently was fired from the CIA in 1971, but never left the shadowy world of international intrigue.

Terpil, an admitted henchman of former Ugandan dictator Idi Amin and an accused terrorist plotter for Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy, was sentenced with a co-defendant in absentia last week to up to 53 years in prison for gun-running.

Terpil's trial featured tapes made by undercover agents in which he boasted of murderous exploits as an aide to Amin and hawk ing weaponry — including attache case bombs and pens that shot poison darts and deadly chemicals for assassinations.

Even as acting New York State Supreme Court Justice Thomas Galligan passed sentence and called Terpil a "profiteer of terrorism," Terpil was beyond the reach of U.S. law — reportedly in the Middle East despite an international search involving Interpol and Western police agencies.

Terpil, 42, and co-defendant George Korkala, 40, were convicted in May of illegally trying to sell 10,000 British-made Sten guns and 10 million rounds of ammunition for \$3.3 million to undercover investigators.

They also were convicted of gun violations involving a number of other weapons, including a sniper-scoped rifle, and possession of binary explosives in which two different

ed to make a bomb. Investigators, wired with recorders, posed as Latin American terrorists.

In September, Terpil and Korkala, president of Amstech International, a Nutley, N.J., electronics security firm, jumped \$100,000 bail and vanished.

The chubby, 6-foot Terpil — who once owned posh homes in McLean, Va., Washington, London and Paris — also was indicted in Washington in April 1980 with another fugitive former CIA employee, Edwin Wilson. They were accused of setting up a terrorist training school with recruited Americans in 1976 and 1977 for Khadafy, supplying his regime with explosives and weapons and trying to plot the murder of a Khadafy opponent in Cairo.

In tapes played at the trial, Terpil told of using binary explosives to blow up an unidentified diplomat in his car. He said he helped Amin torture opponents and poison a finance minister at a state dinner during the time he worked as a part-time adviser in Uganda from 1976 through 1979.

Assistant District Attorney Matthew Crosson said Terpil and Korkala sold the undercover agents for \$800 a small vial of strychnine — enough, they said, to kill 25 people.

Korkala, trying to sell other lethal poisons to the undercover agents, said on

tape: "Let's go up to Harlem and get (test it on) somebody."

"Terpil recommended that poison darts be shot into a victim's jugular vein in an airplane because of the close quarters and even recommended to the un-

lines are best to kill people on because they let passengers off when a death occurs," Crosson said.

Crosson said Terpil and Korkala "didn't care" why the agents wanted arms and poisons and asked no questions. But at one point, Terpil said on tape, "If you're knocking off Americans it'll cost you 40 percent more."

Crosson said he concluded Terpil worked as a covert operative for the CIA between 1963 and 1971. Korkala told the undercover agents in a taped conversation Terpil was fired "for counterfeiting money in Tibet."

But other accounts say Terpil only was involved in repairing code-breaking equipment for the CIA and was fired for unbecoming conduct — bragging about his CIA ties.

A CIA spokesman refused to comment on Terpil and his co-defendant in the Washington case, Wilson, except to say the agency "had no contact with them" after they left the CIA in the early 1970s.

In the trial, Terpil's lawyer, Anthony Napolitano, argued the evidence was not enough to warrant a conviction and said he had no information on what happened to Terpil.

But authorities say Terpil and Korkala are living in the Middle East and have been elsewhere on false passports. Wilson is living openly in Tripoli, running an "import-export" business, officials say.